CHAPTER 0

In a shopping arcade along Kyoto's Teramachi Sanjo...

There's a little building that's home to an antique shop called "Kura."

ALL RIGHT!

TODAY, I'M GOING IN!

WHEW

ART BY ICHIHA AKIZUKI

WRITTEN BY MAI MOCHIZUKI

CHARACTER DESIGNS BY
SHIZU YAMAUCHI

京都寺町三条のホームズ

Holmes of Kyoto Teramachi Sanjo

Kyoto Teramachi Sanjo no Holmes

CHAPTER 0
HOLMES AND HAKUIN EKAKU

Candlesticks and teacups ...

Tea bowls and decorative plates...

THEY EVEN HAVE CURIOS...

How cute.

Japanese things and Western things...

YOU MIND HAVIN' A LOOK AT THIS?

HOLMES?

Is that his name?

IT'S A HANGIN' SCROLL I JUST GOT MY HANDS ON.

WHAT D'YA THINK, HOLMES?

YOKOYAMA TAIKAN'S "MT. FUJI AND CHERRY BLOSSOMS."

YES, THIS IS A VERY FINE PIECE.

He's so handsome.

AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS THE REAL DEAL!

YOU'RE ALWAYS FALLIN' FOR THIS STUFF, UEDA-SAN.

REPRODUC-TION?

YES, I'M QUITE SURE.

WAIT... IS HE THE APPRAISER ?!

YES, IT'S QUITE A LOVELY RE-PRODUCTION.

AIN'T THAT LOVELY!

Y'THINK SO TOO, MIEKO-SAN? I WAS THINKIN' IT'D FETCH TEN MILLION...

DID YOU NEED AN APPRAISAL?

OH, UM...

THA-THUMP

I...

THA-THUMP

...

PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.

LET ME SEE THEM.

I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THESE.

MIGHT I ASK TO WHOM THESE BELONG?

HE'S LOOKIN' AWFUL SERIOUS ...

Y'THINK IT'S SOMETHIN' GOOD?

HEY NOW, HOLMES!

JUST WHAT'RE YOU ACCUSIN' HER OF?

YOU MUST NEED MONEY VERY BADLY INDEED...

TO TRY AND SELL OFF SOMETHING LIKE THIS WITHOUT PERMISSION.

M-MY LATE GRAND-FATHER.

HE LIKED ANTIQUES. HE COLLECTED ALL KINDS...

IT DOES APPEAR THAT MY ASSESS-MENT WAS CORRECT.

I APOLOGIZE IF I'M MISTAKEN.

BUT...

EACH TIME I'VE SEEN YOU, YOU'VE SEEMED VERY RETICENT.

THE TRUTH IS, I SAW YOU LOOKING INTO THIS SHOP SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

BUT THE FACT THAT YOU BROUGHT THEM HERE NEVERTHE-LESS...

SUGGESTS A VERY URGENT NEED FOR MONEY.

AT THE SAME TIME, YOU FEEL VERY GUILTY ABOUT THAT.

WHICH SUGGESTS, INSTEAD, THAT YOU CAME TO SELL THEM WITHOUT PERMISSION.

THESE SCROLLS BELONGED TO YOUR GRANDFATHER, SO YOU SHOULD HAVE NO REASON TO SUSPECT INAUTHENTICITY.

I...
I...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THIS IS WHY WE CALL YOU HOLMES.

...PARDON ME.

Hey!

KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY, WOULD YA?

AND THEN...

LAST MONTH, THE BOY I WAS DATING SAID HE WANTED TO BREAK UP.

WHAT DO YOU NEED MONEY FOR?

SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?

I MOVED TO KYOTO FROM SAITAMA SIX MONTHS AGO.

IT WAS HARD, BUT WE WERE SO FAR AWAY...

I THOUGHT, "WELL, OF COURSE WE'VE GROWN APART."

I FORCED MYSELF TO ACCEPT IT.

BUT... THEN I HEARD HE STARTED DATING ANOTHER GIRL RIGHT AFTER WE BROKE UP.

THAT GIRL...

WAS MY BEST FRIEND.

SO YOU WANTED TO FLY BACK TO SEE HIM.

GRACIOUS ME...

KICK

UEDA-SAN!

BUT WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO?

"IS IT TRUE?"

I'M SORRY...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

MY FEELINGS ARE SUCH A MESS.

"HOW LONG HAVE YOU FELT THAT WAY?"

"WERE YOU... HAPPY THAT I MOVED AWAY?"

I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW, BUT...

I do it as a hobby.

WE OFFER FREE DRINKS TO CUSTOMERS.

FEEL FREE TO HELP YOURSELF.

IT MIGHT CALM YOU DOWN A BIT.

CLINK

IT HAS... SUCH A GENTLE FLAVOR.

CAFÉ AU LAIT, WARM, WITH LOTS OF MILK...

OH, UM...

I LOOKED AT THE PICTURES. I THOUGHT THEY SEEMED REALLY NICE...

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THESE HANGING SCROLLS?

BY THE WAY, YOU MENTIONED THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER COLLECTED ALL KINDS OF ANTIQUES.

THEY'RE ZENGA PAINTINGS BY HAKUIN EKAKU.

AND, MORE SHOCKINGLY, THEY'RE GENUINE.

THE SCROLLS THAT YOU BROUGHT IN...

SO YOU JUDGED THEM BASED ON THE PICTURES?

I SEE.

YOU APPEAR TO HAVE A VERY GOOD EYE.

"IN SURUGA, THERE ARE TWO GREAT ABUNDANCES:

THE MOUNTAIN OF FUJI AND THE WHITE-CLOAKED FIELDS."

THE "WHITE-CLOAKED," OR "HAKUIN," PART REFERS TO HAKUIN EKAKU. HE WAS VALUED ON PAR WITH MT. FUJI.

HE WAS HELD IN VERY HIGH ESTEEM.

HAKUIN EKAKU WAS A MID-EDO PERIOD ZEN BUDDHIST MONK RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIVING THE RINZAI SCHOOL.

BUT THIS IS THE TRULY INTERESTING PIECE.

T-TWO AND A HALF?!

...

THIS IS IN VERY FINE CONDITION. IT COULD FETCH TWO AND HALF MILLION YEN.

WELL, AIN'T IT JUST PRECIOUS!

I'VE SEEN HAKUIN DRAW SMALL CHILDREN BEFORE, BUT... NEVER AN INFANT.

TO BE HONEST, I DON'T THINK I COULD PUT A PRICE ON IT.

WHILE HAKUIN WAS LIVING AT SHOIN-JI TEMPLE IN NUMAZU,

THE UNMARRIED DAUGHTER OF A PARISHIONER BECAME PREGNANT.

THERE WAS AN EPISODE OF MASTER HAKUIN'S LIFE THAT INVOLVED AN INFANT, YOU SEE.

"DEGENE-RATE MONK!"

HE WENT TO HAKUIN AND FORCED HIM TO TAKE THE CHILD.

BUT NOT ONLY DID THAT FAIL TO SETTLE THINGS, IT ACTUALLY ENRAGED HER FATHER ALL THE MORE.

SO SHE LIED. SHE SAID THAT THE CHILD BELONGED TO HAKUIN, A MAN THAT HER FATHER RESPECTED.

BUT SHE KNEW THE BABY'S FATHER WAS A MAN HER FATHER WOULD NEVER ACCEPT.

THE GIRL'S FATHER ANGRILY INTERROGATED HER ABOUT THE BABY'S PARENTAGE.

...

HAKUIN TOOK THE CHILD IN WITHOUT A WORD IN HIS OWN DEFENSE.

HE THEN WALKED AROUND TOWN, ENDURING THE TOWNSPEOPLE'S ABUSE AS HE SOUGHT A WOMAN TO NURSE THE CHILD.

SHOCKED, HER FATHER WENT TO HAKUIN TO APOLOGIZE PROFUSELY AND RETRIEVE THE CHILD.

THE PARISHIONER'S DAUGHTER, UNABLE TO BEAR IT, CONFESSED THE TRUTH.

"IT'S GOOD THAT THE CHILD HAS A FATHER."

"IS THAT SO?"

NOW, HOW DO YOU THINK...

DESPITE THE WAY THEY TREATED HIM...

HE JUST ACCEPTED IT ALL.

AND HE WAS HAPPY FOR THE CHILD'S SAKE...

...HAKUIN FELT WHEN THE FATHER CAME TO HIM?

BUT PEOPLE CAN'T COMPARTMENTALIZE THEIR FEELINGS THAT EASILY, CAN THEY?

CLENCH

BUT...

MEANWHILE, I...

I WAS GOING TO SELL SOMETHING SO PRECIOUS...

JUST... JUST SO I COULD GO TELL SOMEONE OFF.

OH... UM...

IT'S... MASHIRO AOI.

MAY I ASK YOURS?

MY NAME IS YAGASHIRA KIYOTAKA.

AOI-SAN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WORK HERE AT KURA?

BUT...

I'M SURE IT WOULD PROVE TO BE A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOU.

YOU APPEAR TO HAVE A VERY GOOD EYE.

YOU COULD WORK HERE PART-TIME TO EARN THE MONEY FOR YOUR TICKET.

HOW AWFUL NICE!

YOU HEARD THE MAN! SOUNDS GREAT!

THEN, ONCE YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE THE TRIP...

IF YOU STILL WISH TO GO THEN,

IT MIGHT BE WORTH CONSIDERING.

I WAS GOING TO SELL THESE FAMILY TREASURES IN SECRET...

AND USE THE MONEY TO GO GIVE THEM A PIECE OF MY MIND.

IT WAS SO STUPID, BUT I ALMOST WENT THROUGH WITH IT.

I GOT SO CONCERNED WITH SETTLING THINGS RIGHT AWAY THAT I LOST SIGHT OF EVERYTHING ELSE.

WHEN I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...

I WANT TO THINK THINGS THROUGH AND FIND THE RIGHT ANSWER.

I WANT TO LEARN MORE.

I WANT TO GROW UP.

I think... this might be my chance to do that.

THEN...

I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER!

I'D BE VERY GLAD TO HAVE YOU, AOI-SAN.

I didn't expect to find someone so quickly.

...HUH?

I WAS ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP ME OUT.

CHAPTER 0 END